

rance of the *Costæ* and *Sternum*, that one might very easily have taken out either Heart or Lungs, without so much as touching their Enclosure. Whether this might not be occasion'd from the rarify'd *Effluvia* of the Waters, pent up within the Breast, or rather a necessary Consequence of the Diaphragm's being so excessively pressed upwards, I leave to a more Critical Censure; neither shall I take upon me to determine whether the contained Liquor happened from any Rupture in the Lacteal or Lymphatick Vessels, according to Dr. *Willis*, or (as more probable to me) if it were not pure *Serum* (the Blood being dissolved in its constituent parts) breaking forth of the little mouths of the *Celiac* and other Arteries.

There were present at this Dissection, { Mr. *James Wasse*,
Sen. & Jun. } Chyrurgeons.
 { *Daniel Turner*, }

IV. *Observatio Casus non vulgaris De Hydropse intra Uteri Tunicas contento.*

E. R. a Person Aged 44, and upwards; sometime after she was married, had conceived (as she thought) by some supposed Symptoms of Pregnancy, and in order to her Delivery, at the expiration of the time of her Account, her Midwife was consulted. (Her fancy'd) Pains came on, and she thought her self very near her Labour. Her Belly was grown very big, and had gradually increased from the time of her (imagined) Conception; but alas, she found her self deceived in her Expectation, and her Preparations for this time all in vain. Her illness shortly after wore off, without leaving any Prognostick of an approaching Birth.

Thus

Thus she continued, growing bigger and more indisposed, till twice the time of her Reckoning was completed.

Those whom she consulted for help, knew not by what means to relieve her, as not knowing what her Distemper was. Some thought she had a Tympany, some that she was Ascitical, and others that she carried a dead Child in her Womb.

She had taken much Physick, but without relief, and at length made her Application to Dr. G— who, after Enquiry into the Circumstances, put her in great hopes by his Perswasions, that she might be with Child, and by the taking some few of his Prescriptions, in all probability she was to be delivered very speedily of a Humane *Fœtus*, either alive or dead. These Remedies were taken as ineffectually as many others; so that now she began to despair of Recovery, yet lived many Months afterwards: And last of all, at three Years end (from the time she thought her self Pregnant) she refer'd her self to one Dr. N— a Professor of Physick as well as Midwifery. She was now again under a Course of Physick, and had taken many powerful Hysterick, and other Uterine Remedies.

It was now without much Question concluded that she labour'd of a *Mola*, or that a false Conception was engendred by one of Nature's Aberrations instead of a true one. The Cause being now (as was thought) found out, there remained nothing but to endeavour its expulsion: This was attempted with no better Success than formerly; so that after all she removed into the Air, where she had not continued long, before she languished and dyed.

There remained nothing but the opening of the Body, which was concluded on, in order to detect this so occult and contumacious a Distemper. We who were to make the Inspection, met with her Physician, and (the

Corps being laid as advantagiouſly as might be) we began our Inciſion from the *Umbilicus* tranſvers the *Abdomen*, to the *Ilia* : And from the ſame centre another Inciſion direct to the *Os Pubis*. Here was now an expectation on all hands of ſomething rare and Monſtrous, when on a ſudden one of the Diſſecters (little thinking what was ſo near) in cutting through the *Peritonæum*, accidentally thruſt his Knife too far, and immediately there aroſe a Spring, as it were, of a limpid *Serum* or *Lympha*, as clear as Water from a Fountain, riſing up a very conſiderable height, and with great impetuouſity.

This put an end as well to Conjecture as Diſpute, we now fully concluding the Diſtemper to be an *Hydrops Uteri*, or a Dropſie contain'd within the Cavity of the Womb. Having emptied the containing part of its Water, which in quantity did ſomewhat exceed two Gallons or eight Quarts ; we proceeded to ſatiſſie our ſelves wherein this Deluge had been contained, we found its enclosure was a thin transparent Membrane ; and yet notwithſtanding its extraordinary Dilation, I could not perſwade my ſelf that it was the entire Body of the *Uterus* it ſelf : Upon a more ſtriſt ſearch, when I turned this Membrane to the right ſide, I perceived underneath this outward Tunic, or (as I thought) adhering to it, a more carnous Subſtance. To clear this ſuſpicion the *Os Pubis* was divided, which finding very difficult to be performed with a Knife, I finiſh'd with a ſmall Saw.

I cannot chooſe but take notice in this place, of ſome People's over-credulity, and to wonder that we ſhould be ſo eaſily perſwaded to ſet the Light of our Underſtanding in the dark Lanthorn of Authority, when we take for granted, that theſe Bones, *viz.* the Share or Pubes, do ſeparate or part aſunder of their own accord in time of Travel, in order to facilitate the Birth of the *Fœtus*.

